



HOTSHOTS... for the

Gilbert Fire Department Volunteers

Volume 4, Issue 3

March 2011

Kim's Corner

By Kim Yonda
GFD Volunteer Coordinator

It has been delightful to see so many of you at the office renewing your Volunteer credentials for another year of service. Thank you so very much for sharing your time and talents with the Gilbert Fire Department! If you have yet to renew your credentials, you have another opportunity to do so on March 1st. Hope to see you here!



A special thanks to Katharine Keller for organizing our hike up Silly Mountain. What a great time we had! The weather was beautiful, lots of laughs, and great exercise. We had the opportunity to meet so many interesting people on the trails, and we watched a fire academy complete rescue training drill on the mountain. (It was an easy universal decision for us to politely decline an offer to be carried down the mountain on the board!)

The Citizen Corps Symposium will be held from April 14, to April 16, and is rapidly approaching. I hope you have the days blocked out on your calendar because it is going to be one informative, energy packed event! I look forward to seeing you there, but please remember to register early because space is limited.

The nomination period will be opening this month where you may nominate a Volunteer for the talents and time they share with the Department. There are some interesting categories, both serious and fun; I encourage you to look over the categories and nominate as many Volunteers as you like. Yes, the Golden Plunger returns this year!

Reviewing CERT

By Johnna Switzer
GFD Volunteer

I realize that the GFD Volunteer Program 2011 exercise/drill is not going to occur until October of this year, but it is never too early to begin reviewing basic CERT information. Those Volunteers who are not affiliated with CERT, please feel free to take the quizzes too, since much of the material is relevant to Volunteers who are classified as emergency workers. (That's all of us!) To help get the rust out of our brains, here are some basic true/false questions.

1. CERT Volunteers, operating in their neighborhoods, can extend the capabilities of response organizations.
2. CERT requires Volunteers to be extensively trained so that they can take the place of professional emergency workers.
3. When response resources are limited, emergency services usually convert to a first-come, first-served basis for deploying personnel.
4. Damage to the infrastructure often restricts the capabilities of response services.
5. Reducing potential fire hazards in your home is an example of a hazard mitigation action.
6. As a CERT member, our number one priority is to ensure the safety of those in need.
7. Part of your CERT training included learning how to extinguish small fires and how to conduct light search and rescue operations.



A Little Bit of Home

Captain Jamie Spada, at Station #1, 2730 E Williams Field Road, is collecting Girl Scout cookies to send to Gilbert Fire Fighter, Leo Hess. Leo is currently serving our country in Afghanistan. Please feel free to attach a note to Leo. Captain Spada will get them boxed up and sent. Captain Spada shared that when deployed, our troops appreciate the simple things from home.



Answers: 1. T, 2. F, 3. F, 4. T, 5. T
6. F (your #1 priority is your own safety first!), 7. T

Find the
hero
in you.

**A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY
FOR BLOOD DONORS!**

Be a Power-Hitter!

*Give blood in March and you will be automatically entered to win
a pair of D-backs Party Suite tickets!*

*Twenty-five (25) pairs of tickets will be raffled for the Sunday, May 1 game when the Arizona
Diamondbacks take on the Chicago Cubs.*



Blood Drive Town of Gilbert

**1st Date, Time and
Location**

**Tuesday, March 29, 2011 8:00 am ~ 11:00 am
UBS Bus in Administration Parking Lot**

**2nd Date, Time and
Location**

**Tuesday, March 29, 2011 8:00 am ~ 11:00 am
UBS Bus in Police Department Parking Lot**

Contact

**Visit www.BloodHero.com (sponsor code: Gilbert) or
call Steven Freeman at 480-635-7008.**

Please bring a photo ID and donor card.

It is the donor's, prospective donor's or coordinator's responsibility to ensure that the United Blood Services system contains the correct contact phone number in the event their name is drawn as the recipient of a prize. UBS/Arizona will use its reasonable best efforts to contact each finalist by telephone for three business days following the drawing. If contact cannot be made, the finalist will be deemed ineligible and an alternate name will be randomly drawn from among the remaining entries on the fourth business day. Verbal contact with the winner is required for receipt of any item. Eligibility restrictions apply.

Give blood 3 times a year!
1-877-448-GIVE (4483)
www.UnitedBloodServicesAZ.org



United Blood Services
Find the hero in you.



Arizona Diamondbacks Outfielder Chris Young

A Little Laugh

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?

Second Annual Citizen Corps Symposium

Friday – Saturday, April 15th and 16th, 2011

**Seville Golf and Country Club
6683 S Clubhouse Drive
Gilbert, AZ 85297**



Terrorism Advisory System to be More Effective

By Sheri Gibbons
Emergency Management Coordinator
Gilbert Fire Department

The Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, announced in late January that the Department of Homeland Security will discontinue the use of the Homeland Security Advisory System. This color coded threat level system was unveiled by Tom Ridge, then Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, on March 11, 2002. It was created in direct response to the September 11 attack. The new system is called the National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) and is said to be more effective.

This new system will provide information about terrorist threats in timely, detailed alerts to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation stakeholders as well as the private sector. These alerts will include information about actions that can be taken to ensure public safety, and recommended steps that individuals, communities, businesses and governments can make. It will also identify an "imminent" or "elevated" threat and will be issued with a specific end date.

The new terrorism alert system will be implemented over the next 90 days. To view NTAS alerts you can go online to <http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/ntas.shtm>



National Threat Advisory:
ELEVATED



Significant Risk Of Terrorist Attacks

Cardon Children's Medical Center
along with the Gilbert Fire Department is offering



Child Passenger Safety Technician Training Courses

March 21,22,23,24

8am to 5pm

(Except for March 24 8am to 11am)

Safe Kids Course # **AZ20110128128** Cost: \$75.00 paid to Safe Kids

Location:

Gilbert Fire Administration
85 E Civic Center Drive
Gilbert, AZ 85296

To Register:

Details are online at www.safekids.org/certification under the heading Certification. If you do not have internet access to register online, CPS Customer Service is available at **1-877-366-8154 M-F from 9am to 7pm EST** for help. Any paper payments (checks, paper POs) received within 10 days of the start of the course have a \$10 late fee. Online registration or calling CPS Customer Service with a credit card avoids this additional charge. You can mail any paper payments to Safe Kids; c/o PES; 475 Riverside Drive, 6th Floor; New York, NY 10115.

For More Information Please Contact:

Tracey Fejt, Cardon Children's Medical Center: (480) 412-3306

Welcome

New GFD Volunteers

Andrew Smith

Tom Ahmann

After the Smoke Settles

By Susan Squire
GFD Volunteer

Most people probably have a good idea about what happens on the day of a fire, but what about the day after?

We woke up the day after our fire not really knowing what to do, but knowing that it probably wouldn't involve shopping. Whatever the day held, we knew it would start at the house.

When we arrived, there were about 30 people at work. An electronics company was going room by room, cataloging every electronic item, wrapping it in plastic wrap, and loading it into a truck. There were people removing all the art from the walls and taking it to a gallery to be cleaned. A dry cleaner who specializes in restoration was bagging every article of clothing, drapery, rug, and soft good in the house, and loading it into another truck. Amid all the chaos, I was asked to pick out a handful of priority items that would be cleaned first, and for whatever reason, I decided my hiking pants were a huge priority.

There were people in every room, cataloging everything in the nightstands, dressers, closets, and drawers, and deciding whether it was trash or could be saved. I did a quick mental inventory of anything I didn't want to show up on an inventory list, and hoped that the people would realize that Sex Wax is what my husband rubs on his surf board to make it sticky. In the kitchen someone was cataloging everything in my pantry, including my spices. All of these items ultimately end up in an Excel spreadsheet, and some computer generated program assigns everything a value.

What doesn't survive the smoke and becomes trash? Basically, everything in your kitchen that is consumable. Every cookbook, small appliance, and anything that is made of plastic. Every mattress, silk plant, and lamp. Every paper good, pen, pencil, paperclip. Every bottle of shampoo, hand lotion, makeup, medication, and hair brush.

It takes about four days to wade through everything and collect what you can't bear to lose. You worry about what all the residual smoke you are breathing is doing to your lungs, and you wonder if you should just walk away. But you stay and sort through it all. When you are through, you realize that now it is time to find "permanent," temporary housing.

The insurance company is required to put you in accommodations that are equal to where you were currently living. They come up with a dollar amount based on equivalent rentals in your neighborhood. Since a lot of rentals won't rent for less than 6 months, they also calculate what it would cost to put your family into a hotel. This is a highly dreaded option, but it may increase your budget. More options may present themselves because some places are willing to rent for a shorter term if they are given a higher monthly rent.

With these insurance dollar amounts in mind, you hit the streets and start looking. The insurance company deals with the rental company, and before you know it you have keys in your hand. Within a day or two, a delivery truck arrives with your temporary furniture and house wares. You stand and watch as the bare necessities are moved into your new place. Beds, sheets, nightstands, dressers, desks, TV's, couches, lamps, dining room table, and even an area rug, if you ask. They deliver basic kitchen supplies, including wine glasses, an iron and ironing board, a vacuum, and a mop and bucket. They place furniture where you want it, hang pictures, unpack all the boxes, and put the dishes away. After a couple of hours they are gone and you are in a place you will call home for the next several months.

There are several things that can be learned from this experience. First, when you have a fire, you really don't care about how messy your house was, or whether your bed was made. You worry that everyone, including your beloved pets, are okay. Second, if you don't already, you now love Super Target. This is where you can go and buy your breakfast for the next day, plus a bag of underwear. And finally, if you are lucky, you learn that if you dare to experience something new and different, such as urban living, you can have an amazing time while your house is being put back together. So amazing, in fact, that you might even have mixed emotions when it comes time to move back home.

Stories Behind the Scenes

By Katharine Keller
GFD Volunteers



Everyone has a story, whether it is personal or business, silly, or serious. First responders have a genuine privilege in meeting many customers in the community, hearing their stories, and actually becoming part of their new story. As Community Assistance Volunteers we have that same opportunity on every shift. How we receive these stories is important in our service.

This became real to me earlier this year when my partner and I went to a structure fire. Actually, by the time we were on shift the fire had been extinguished. However, we went in case we could be useful in the aftermath of the blaze. Amid a foam-covered street, a cacophony of sounds, a maze of engines and police cars and gawking neighbors, we met a fantastic couple, and one of their adult sons.

Naturally they were just slightly thunderstruck by their burnt, but not totally decimated home. The fire had started in a car in the garage, and spread quickly upward through some spaces in the ceiling. They were fortunate because the entire dwelling wasn't a loss. We watched with them as the battalion chief, fire investigator, and fire fighters efficiently checked and rechecked the structure. As Community Assistant Volunteers, we drove the son to a rental car establishment and procured backpacks (Bundles of Hope) laden with toiletries. Fortunately they had family in the area, so they could rely on them for ongoing support.

This was a second home for them, their primary residence was in the Northwest. The wife will soon retire as a school principal, and the husband, although retired, had at one time played in a 60's band that had a "one hit wonder." The son was a photographer, among other things, and quite engaging. It was very easy to get to know them, mostly because they seemed to enjoy sharing their story. But it was during this call that I realized what a priceless honor it is to LISTEN to the customers. The longer the call is, the more likely it is that the folks will disclose more about themselves. But even when we are dispatched to shorter calls, such as changing batteries in smoke detectors, or standing on the sidelines of a MVA, we get to know individuals, each of them with a story.

The above fire scene was exceptional because we had an extended conversation. Just think about other calls you, as a Volunteer, have attended. All of us can probably add other stories of encountering citizens in need. Community Assistants are people who value people. We stand alongside many who are traumatized, incapacitated, not of sound mind, or just simply need our help. We have a high calling, my friends, one not ever to be taken lightly. Everyone we serve has an important story in the fabric of life. Although we might not plan for it to happen, each person we help becomes woven into our story as well.

HOTSTUFF

MARCH

1 Volunteer Credential Renewal	8:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Room 6	CERT/ FC
7 ICS 700	6:00 - 10:00 PM	Room 6	CERT/ FC
24 Storm Spotters Training	7:00 - 9:30 PM	Amphitheater	Δ, Public

APRIL

9 Tactical Communications	8:00 - 11:00 AM	Amphitheater	CERT
14 Citizen Corps Symposium	1:00 - 9:00 PM	Fire Admin.	Δ
15-16 Citizen Corps Symposium	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Seville Golf Club	Δ
30 Walk for Water Safety	8:30 - 11:00 AM	Amphitheater	Δ, Public

Δ Open to CERT, FC, VIPS and USAonWatch Volunteers.
Register with Kim Yonda @ 480-503-6325 or kim.yonda-lead@gilbertaz.gov

An up to the minute CERT/FC training calendar will be found at
<http://www.ci.gilbert.az.us/fire/volunteers.cfm>